

=====

Name: John Messner  
Business: Gunnison County Commissioner  
Address: 200 E Virginia  
Gunnison, CO 81230  
E-Mail: jmessner@gunnisoncounty.org  
Commented on Electric Company: Rulemaking and Investigations Initiated by  
Colorado Public Utilities Commission  
Comment Submitted on 04/30/2019 04:17 PM ID# 1204

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The will of a majority of citizens of Colorado and members of Tri-State coops may be being overruled by a minority which is composed of Wyoming, New Mexico, and Colorado representatives on the Tri-State board. All co-ops get one vote irrespective of population served or share of energy purchased. This is not only un-democratic but it also means that those with the highest stake of the risk that Tri-State's investments represent have disproportionately low influence over decisions compared to their exposure. The co-operative model worked well to deliver electricity to rural areas and co-ops are arguably close enough to the rate-payers that they are accountable to them. But the co-op of co-ops that Tri-State is with one vote per co-op no matter how many members they represent, is where the real consequential decisions about investments get made; the weighing of economic and environmental consequences of investments is not transparent back to the rate-payer and arguably not even to the member co-ops. PUC oversight would mandate a transparent disclosure of economic and environmental assessments so that rate-payers can be assured that decisions are being made with proper information and in the best interest of the public.

Many renewable resources are located in rural Colorado and Tri-State member co-op territories which could benefit from the jobs that could be created by utilizing renewable resources. Instead of helping create and support local jobs, Tri-State's policies are limiting member co-ops ability to develop locally and instead are exporting millions of dollars per year out of communities and toward large central power plants and mines. As the cost of renewables continues to decrease Tri-State members may be better served by early retirement of fossil fuel generation even with continued debt on those assets. Analysis of such scenarios must be mandated and transparent, PUC oversight would ensure ratepayers that robust, transparent analysis of resource and development options are accomplished and that they long-term best interest of rate-payers and citizens of Colorado are considered.

Sincerely,

John Messner  
Gunnison County Commissioner

=====

Name: Patricia Del Tredici  
Business: Ms.  
Address: 311 Cement Creek Rd, Unit G